

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 5 1. A computer-implemented method for rendering a number in a spreadsheet
program module, comprising the steps of:
 determining the value of the number;
 reading a worldwide number format of the number;
 reading a base format of the number; and
10 using the base format and worldwide number format to render the value.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the worldwide number format comprises a
 locale identification.
- 15 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the worldwide number format further
 comprises a number shape.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the worldwide number format further
 comprises a calendar type.

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5. A computer-implemented method for entering a number into a cell in an electronic spreadsheet of a spreadsheet application program module, the method comprising the steps of:

5 receiving a category indication for the number;
receiving a locale identifier for the number;
cross-referencing the category and locale identifier to determine a plurality of sample number formats with a plurality of underlying number formats;
10 displaying the plurality of sample number formats;
receiving an indication of a selection of one of the plurality of sample number formats; and
storing the underlying number format of the selected sample number format in association with a value for the cell, wherein the underlying
15 number format of the selected sample number format and the value for the cell comprise the number.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of receiving a category indication for the number comprises receiving the category indication from a selection from a Category dropdown menu.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of receiving a locale identifier for the number comprises receiving the locale identifier from a selection from a Locale dropdown menu.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of displaying the plurality of sample number formats comprises displaying the plurality of sample number formats in a Type menu of a Format Cells dialog.

5 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of receiving an indication of a selection of one of the plurality of sample number formats comprises receiving an indication from the Type menu of the Format Cells dialog.

10 10. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 5.

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11. A Format Cells dialog box for choosing the number format of a number in an electronic spreadsheet application program module, the dialog box comprising:

5 a Category menu comprising a plurality of number categories to select for the number;

a Locale menu comprising a plurality of locales to select as the locale identification for the number; and

10 a Type menu comprising a plurality of sample display formats to select to display the number.

12. The Format Cells dialog box of claim 11 wherein the plurality of sample display formats is generated in response to a selection of one of the plurality of number categories and a selection of one of the plurality of locales.

13. The Format Cells dialog box of claim 11 wherein each of the plurality of sample display formats has a corresponding underlying number format.

20 14. The Format Cells dialog box of claim 13 wherein a selection of one of the plurality of sample display formats causes the corresponding underlying number format of the selected sample display format to be applied to the number.